



# Waikite Valley School

*Developing Learners for Life*

1090 Waikite Valley Road, RD 1, Rotorua 3077 Tel 07 3331888



## Weekly Panui – Wednesday 7 February, 2018

Kia ora Koutou Whanau,

### BUILDING A RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN WAIKITE VALLEY SCHOOL AND JOHN PAUL COLLEGE

As many of you will remember, when I arrived at our school in 2014 there were no students in Years 7 and 8. Over the past 3 years the staff, BOT and community of our school have worked hard to find out why families were moving their children to other schools early and what we can do to ensure that our school meets the needs and aspirations of our community. It is a huge credit to us all that we have had an intermediate class with 9 students in Year 7-8 for the past 2 years. However, we are still aware that some families are leaving before their children complete their full primary schooling at Waikite Valley School.

After ongoing conversations with families, we have learned that one of the main reasons for the early shift is a concern that the children will not be accepted to John Paul College at Year 9 because of a lack of spaces. Over the past couple of years I have been working with the Principal of JPC, Patrick Walsh, on how we can form a positive relationship that ensures the students of Waikite Valley can get the 'best of both worlds'. The main focus of this collaboration is to assure parents that they are best to stay at Waikite Valley School for as long as is possible to take full advantage of our school's opportunities, unique rural setting, student-teacher ratio, leadership learning and other initiatives the students develop for themselves. Mr. Walsh is endeavouring to provide assured acceptance at Year 9, and allow them to complete their time with us in an environment that we know is full of rich learning for our students. Patrick Walsh is going to visit our school on Tuesday 13th February at 5.30pm to talk about this. It is an excellent opportunity for anyone wanting information 'straight from the horse's mouth' to come along with questions, concerns or to listen to the conversation.

### Go By Bike Day

It is go by bike day next Wednesday 14th February. We would love to see every child at school with their bike if possible. :) Some of you may be able to ride to school, otherwise if you would like to drop their bike at school on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning, they will be able to take part in the activities on the day (more details inside newsletter).

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### IMPORTANT DATES

- Tuesday 13th February**
  - Patrick Walsh (Principal of John Paul College) visiting to talk about transition program between WVS and JPC— 5.30pm
  - BOT meeting 6.30pm
- Wednesday 14th February**
  - \* Go BY Bike Day
- Wednesday 21 February**
  - \* Te Ruma Puawai Assembly— 2.15pm
- Thursday 1 March**
  - Waikite Valley School Swimming Sports
- Friday 2 March**
  - Intermediate Futsal Tournament (Tauranga)

### WINNING WAYS TO WELLBEING

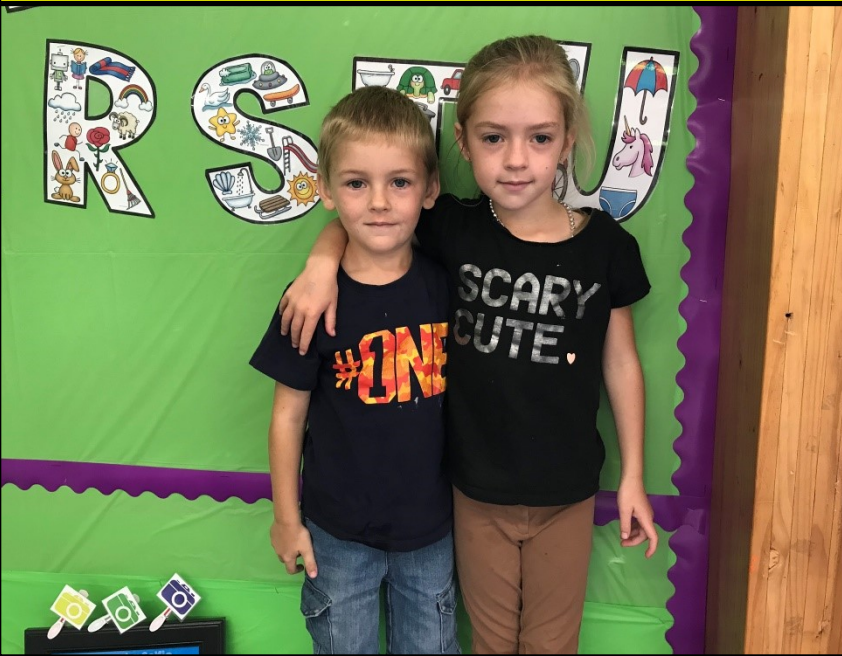


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Mental Health Foundation of New Zealand  
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*"Developing learners for life"*

Welcome to our School.  
Kaedin (Rm 1) and Lillyana Kelsen (Rm 2) who started this week.



Welcome to our School!  
Mrs. Gillian Trent (School librarian)  
and Mrs. Angie Hossack (Reading Recovery Teacher).

## Teaching our student's 'how to fish'.....



There's an old saying, usually attributed to Confucius, that goes "Give a man a fish, and you'll feed him for a day. Teach a man to fish, and you've fed him for a lifetime." There's an important life lesson in that simple statement.

The explanation that guides our school curriculum is something like:  
**Give a student the answer, and they'll only have a temporary solution. Teach them the principles that led you to that answer, and they will be able to create their own solutions in the future.**

It is my opinion (and observation) that formal education at times consists of nothing more than making children memorize answers, sometimes in abstract contexts, ignoring the importance of teaching them how to get to those answers in the first place or how to critique whether finding the answer is the most important part for their learning.

As teachers and parents it is important to think about how we respond to the many (and varied) questions our children ask us. Should we answer them with a direct answer? Should we ask them to explain what they think about it? Is it best to answer their question with a question to deepen their thinking? Or sometimes perhaps it is good to simply say that you don't know. The way we interact with our children can really help build a flexible mindset, which is invaluable for being a lifelong learner!



**Thank You** To **Watson Elliston** for filling in the tomo/sinkhole at the back of the field. The area will continue to be out of bounds until at least Term 2

To Lee Stubbs for offering to coach the Futsal Team this year :)



# GO BY BIKE DAY 2018

On the 14th of February it is Go By Bike Day. Across New Zealand people are celebrating by dressing their bikes up and riding them to school and work.

We are encouraging Waikite Valley School students to ride their bikes to school or bring their bike on Tuesday afternoon or Wednesday morning.

In the morning there will be a registration table at the bike shed it will be \$2 donation to get a sausage and to enter the go by bike day fun.

These are the events that will take place:

- Best dressed bike (This will be judged at 9:15 on the school field)
- Pump track
- Races (on the field)
- Spot prizes
- Most laps of the field/endurance



We are hoping to take a whole group ride at 9:30am, we will need some parent help. If you able to ride with us that would be great. We will talk to the classes on Monday and Tuesday to help them prepare for the day. Everyone will be required to wear helmets when on their bikes.

**Thanks, The GPA class—2018**

## First Lego League International Tournament



December 2017 a group of our Year 7-8 students took part in the National Lego League Robotics tournament and finished in 3rd Place overall. This qualified them for an international tournament place—which we are extremely excited to announce that we have been invited to compete at the First Lego League International Open, held in LEGOLAND Carlsbad, California, USA from May 18-20, 2018. We are invited to take a team with 4 members and

2 coaches. The robots that we work with will need hours of programming and fine-tuning to ensure they can achieve a high number of scoring runs. Our project based around water solutions will also need more research and improved presentation. Along with our time commitment we will also be working hard to raise the funds for the trip. We estimate that we will need \$15000 to cover all costs. We are hoping to gain sponsorship to assist with the cost—it is a real achievement to be invited to compete at this and the experience will be one the students remember for their lifetime. This will also feed into the Robotics program at our school, through the ideas that they gather while watching and talking to other teams at the tournament. Congratulations to the team and good luck with the learning and financial challenges to get them there! Let me know if you have any ideas to support their journey.

# Friends of Waikite Valley School



*Funding Your Community*

